Communicable Disease Branch Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Key Points

August 4, 2020

The North Carolina Division of Public Health (NC DPH) Communicable Disease Branch will be releasing COVID-19 weekly key points that includes information discussed on the weekly Tuesday Local Health Department call. Recordings of the call will not be made available; please use the information below as a summary of the topics presented on the call. As guidance changes, please use the most recent information provided. For questions, contact the NC DPH Communicable Disease Branch 24/7 Epidemiologist on Call at **919-733-3419**. Please note, on Tuesday, August 4, the weekly call did not occur due to the hurricane Isaias. The key points below are an effort to fill in the gaps until the next weekly call.

Important updates
- **New:** COVID-19 Antigen Lab Entry Guidance (file attached)
- **New:** COVID Antigen (Ag) Lab Entry LHD (file attached)
- **New:** COVID Lab Entry PCR LHD (file attached)
- **New:** NC COVID – Access Here
- **Updated:** Find My Testing Place (file attached)

NC EDSS / NC COVID

NC COVID has officially launched! Please enter all COVID-19 events and data into NC COVID. NC COVID trainings are held every day, except for Wednesdays when NC EDSS basic training is offered. If you need to schedule either training for your staff, please send an email to NCEDSSTrainings@dhhs.nc.gov

NC COVID Data Entry: Please remember you do **not need to enter** a COVID-19 event into NC COVID that does not have a positive lab result. If you are entering in a positive event, it should be accompanied by a positive lab result; do not create events in the absence of a positive lab result. Positive lab results are required to ensure the case meets the case definition. **Please do not classify events as confirmed without a lab result.**

Please note, if subsequent laboratory tests return negative following a positive test, the individual should remain a confirmed case. If an individual has had a valid positive PCR test result, they should remain classified as "confirmed" even if additional negative results feed in later.

There has been some confusion related to COVID-19 antigen testing. Please see the attached documents with in-depth details explaining which laboratory results are reportable, how to enter antigen positive labs into NC EDSS and how to handle negative lab reports. The dropdown selection in NC EDSS for these tests look like this:

- SARS-CoV+SARS-CoV-2 Ag Resp Ql IA.rapid || SARS-CoV+SARS-CoV-2 Ag: IA.rapid
- SARS-CoV-2 Ag Resp Ql IA.rapid || SARS-CoV-2 Ag: IA.rapid

Currently, the only approved test is number one on the above list. If the patient has an Ag test with a positive result and there are no positive PCR tests, this translates to a classification status of '**probable**' in the Investigation Trail. **You are not required to enter negative or unsatisfactory lab results. You should NOT enter in antibody tests. These do not meet case definition.**

Please note that a PCR test may also be a rapid test, so you should not select the Ag test type just because your lab test result says 'rapid'. If your lab test result includes the terms RNA/NAA, then your result is likely a PCR test. Control measures should be provided for positive Antigen cases as is done for positive PCR cases.

Negative Labs: Due to new COVID-19 reporting requirements, physicians and laboratories must now report both negative and positive COVID-19 lab results to public health. Negative lab results for COVID-19 **should not** be entered into NC COVID. The State lab data team requests that you do not forward any negative COVID-19 lab results to the State. However, counties should retain all negative results until further discussion occurs. We will let you know what to do with negative lab results once a conclusion is met. We thank you for your continued patience.

Outbreaks

Please note, county NC EDSS and NC COVID users should not create their own outbreak events in NC EDSS/NC COVID. If there is an outbreak/cluster of COVID-19 in your county, please complete the Outbreak Worksheet located here on the CD Manual. Completed outbreak reports should be emailed to the epidemiologist on call at CDOutbreakWorksheet@dhhs.nc.gov Once the outbreak event is created, the epidemiologist on call will respond to your email with your NC EDSS/NC COVID Event ID.

Find My Testing Place

Please continue to review the updated 'Find My Testing Place LHD' Excel file weekly to ensure information is up to date and accurate. Please send the updated files or any related questions to SVC_Covid-19TestingSites@dhhs.nc.gov